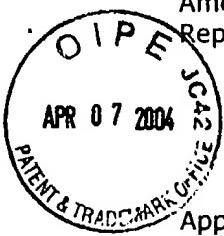


Appn. No.: 09/443,233  
Amendment Dated April 5, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of January 7, 2004

TN167



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appn. No: 09/443,233  
Applicants: John A. Helgenberg et al.  
Filed: 11/18/1999  
Title: LATCHING SYSTEM  
T.C./A.U.: 3677  
Examiner: Estremsky, Gary Wayne  
Confirmation No.: 6933  
Docket No.: TN167

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**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

**Expedited Procedure**

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated January 7, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

- Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.
- Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.